we continue with our culture; and we maintain our individuality. That is because the Indian culture is a humanist culture. It is this humanism which is the greatness of the Indian culture. That is why, thousands of years back, the Vedas said, "Sarve jano sukhino b^avantu". Not the people of India or the people of that country or this country; the entire world should be happy, the entire people should be happy- We have forgotten this great Indian.culture.

Madam, it is sufficient for me to say today that these centres" would be self financing. And they will be getting the degress from this University. They will be centres of Indian culture. That is what I hope and would like them to be. Thank you, Madam. And I thai!k the House for the all-round support given by Members •

THE VIC&CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE); Now, the question is:

'That the .Indira Gandhi, National Open University (Amendment) Bill, 1997 be faken into consideration,"

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 *and* 3 *were added to the Bill.*

Clause 1, *the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI; Madam, I move: That the Bill be passed.'

The question was put and the motion was adopted,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Now, I would like to take the sense of the House

items of business. One is the statement of the Minister. Mr. Aruna-ohalam is sitting here for the last IJ hours. Then there are the admitted Special Mentions of the day. Would you like to sit beyond 6 o'clock? Yes. Okay. Shall we take up the Minister's statement first? *(Interruptions)* There was some accident in the Madras Fertilizers Ltd. *{Interruptions).*

श्री महेशवर सिंह (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : मैडम, आज स्टेटमेंट लेंगे तो क्लेरिफिकेशंस नहीं हो पाएगी। इसलिए स्पेशल मेंशन ले लीजिए।

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दबे(गुजरात) : महोदया, एक बात और भी है जो सप्लीमेंट्री लिस्ट आफ बिजनेस है उसमें लिखा गया है कि

'To be taken up before the House rises for the day."

वह तो फिक्स हो गया है। तो स्पेशल मेंशन हो जाएं, उसके बाद ही यह होना है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे) : मिनिस्टर का स्टेटमेंट तो पहले ले लें हम, उसमें बहुत देर नहीं लगेगी ।

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Accident in Madras -Fertilizers Limi-ted's substantial expansion project on 8th ugust, 1997

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Madam, an unfortunate accident occurred in the night of 8.8.97 during the final stage of commissioning of the Substantial Expansion and Modrenisation Project of Madras Fertilisers Limited at Manali near C^hennai. At 9.13 P.M., one of the .manhole covers in the Secondary Reformer-RG Boiler section blew out with a loud report. The noise started . some contract workers who were engaged in insulation and otlior tnprlinniral nrnrV

workers sustained various injuries. Two of the injured later succumbed to their injuries. The injured, who have been hospitalised, are expected to be discharged shortly.

Within two minutes of the accident, corrective action was taken by the Control Room for ensuring a safe^hut down of the plant. The extent of damage is not expected to be serious. An exact assessment will, however, be possible only after 2-3 days, when the equipment has cooled down.

Dr. G. B. Purohit, Adviser, Department of Fertilisers was deputed on 9.8.97 to make an on the spot assessinent and assist the project authorities in organising the resumption of the commisisoning activities.

On 10.8.97, I myself proceeded to Chennai to see the vicitimp of the accident and enquire after their welfare , Shri N. V. N. Somu, Minister of State of Defence, who represents the area Shri Sundaram, State Minister of Tamil Nadu Government and Shri Ami Kumar, Secretary (Fer-tilis^fs) also accompanied me. An ex-gratia assistance of Rs. 1 lakli each to the families of the deceased has been announced. Ex-gratia assistance of Rs. 10,000/- each is being given to 16 workers, who have suffered grievous injuries and Rs. 5,000/- each to 7 workers, who have sustained minor injuries.

I also visited the plant to confer with the management of Madras Fertilizers Limited and review the progress of the efforts being undertaken by the project authorities for regaining the momentum of the execution of the project. It is expected that the commissioning activities will s^on be resumed.

The raanagement of Madras Fertilizers Limited has constituted an eu- cause of the accident and fix the responsibility for the failure of the fequipment. An external expert has been included in the committee, which is expected to submit its findings within a fortnihgt.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MiSS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Would you like to seek clarifications today?

श्री महेश्वर सिंह (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : मैडम, आज स्पेशन में ले लीजिए । स्टेटमेंट पर क्लेरिफिशसं कल ले लेना ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापडे) : आज स्पेशल मैंशन्स लेने हैं ?

Can we take up Special Mentions today?

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Yes, Madam.

श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिदे (महाराष्ट्र) : मैडम, जितने आज होते हैं,उतने आज होने दीजिए ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष(कुमारी सरोज खापडें): सनातन बिसि जी, आपने कुछ बोलना है।

श्री सनातन बिसि : **(उड़ीसा) :** मैडम, नहीं ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापडें): स्पेशल मैंशन्स आज लेकर मांग ही पूरे खत्म करने हैं क्या ?

Let us take up Special Mentions.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY . AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATA-RAJAN): Madam, now you are tak-

finish them all or will *yoyi* continue up to 6 o'clock?

PROF. RAM KAPSE (Maharashtra): Madam, we will finish all the Special Mentions.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATA-RAJAN: Madam, I am sorry. I just want to seek some clarification. Are there no clarifications on the Statement?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Clarificatidm on the statement made by Mr. A'ninacJiala'ni will take place t6mor-3 0V?. Now We are taking up ad mitted Special Mentions.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. .CHIDAMBARAM): Ma-

d.am, after the Special Mention, do you propose to take up the other business or will it be taken up tomor-rc)w?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I think the hon. Members are saying that we should take up the Special Mentions today and thereafter we should adjourn the House. We will take up the clarifications on the statement tomorrow.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, what about the Bill? It will be taken up only tomorrow?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN fMISS SARO.T KHAPARDE): The Minis ter has also got the Export-Import Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1997, today.

PROF. RAM KAPSE: We will take it up .tomorrow. Now we will take up the Special Mentions and ndthing else. There are 11 Spijcial Mentions.

•THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SARO.I KHAPARDE): Now we will take up Special Mentions Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Harassment of Indian Labourers Abroad and cheating by Indian Manpower Export Agencies

श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिदे (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, एक अत्यंत महत्वूर्ण मसले को उठाने के लिए आपने जो इजाजत दी हैं, उसके लिए मैं आपका आभारी हूं। पिछले वर्ष दिसम्बर में अवैध रूप में से कई भारतीयों को विदेश ले जाने के बहाने सागर में डूबा दिया गया था। इस घिनौनी हरकत की निन्दा दुनिया भर के मीडियो में की गई थी। भारतीय संसद में भी इस पर शहरी चिंता जताई गई थी। ऐसी घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति न हो इसके लिए कडें कदम उठाने का संकल्प भी किया गया था। सरकार ने भरपूर आश्वासन दिए लेकिन फिर भी ऐसी घटनाओं का सिलसिला जारी रहा। इसी वर्ष कई में करीब 172 भारतीयों न कुवैत के दूतावास को प्राप्त शिकायत के मुताबिक इन लोगों को भारतीय मैन-पावर एजेन्सियों ने यह आश्वासन दिया था कि कुवैत में उनको 90 दिनार या 300 डालर प्रतिमाह वेतन दिया जायेगा। लेकिन वहां काम करने के बाद उनको सिर्फ 60 दिनार वेतन दिया जाने लगा। इनमें बहुत सी महिलाएं थी। वेतन के अलावा उन्होनें अन्य शिकायतें भी दूतावास में दर्ज करा दी थी। अंत में उनमें से बहुत सी महिलाएं स्वदेश वापस आई। ऐसी भी कई भारतीय हैं जो वहां पहुंचेकर बंधुआ मजदूरों की जिंदगी जीते हैं। ऐसी कई घटनाएं इससे पहले भी हो चुकी है और हो रही है। मेरे पास जो आंकडें उपलब्ध हैं उनके मुताबिक 1993 में 81 लाख भारतीय नागरिक दुनिया के 156 देशों मे नौकरियों या व्यवसाय कर रहें थे। इसके अलावा करीब एक करोड़ भारतीय मूल, के लोगों विदेशों में नागरिकता हासिल कर बस गये हैं। आज 1997 में विदेशों नागरिकता ग्रहण करने वाले भार-